

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of James Trabue R18543

fn57VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

4/2/10

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State of Kentucky Adair County to wit

Personally appeared before me Milton P. Wheat one of the Justices of the peace in and for said County Daniel Trabue aged seventy-three years in March 1833 and made oath in due form of law that he was acquainted with James Trabue, late a commissary in the Army of the revolutionary war, in Clark's Regiment, under Col. George Rogers Clark. That he was acquainted with James Trabue previous to that war, that witness and James Trabue were brothers, and both lived in the same region of country in Virginia in which Col. Clark resided and in the fall or winter of 1777, the witness heard that a western expedition was designed, to be led by Col. Clark; and James Trabue resided in Charlotte County Virginia came to the witness, and told him that he had engaged to go with Clark, on his expedition to the West, and to remain with Clark till the service there expired; and that he was promised a subaltern Command, and was engaged in enlisting men to go on that expedition, that the witness and several others enlisted on that expedition, under James Trabue, and he James Trabue, received orders from Col. Clark to march his men to Kentucky, and rendezvous at the Falls of the Ohio; this was in the fall or early part of the winter 1777, but the winter sitting in part, he did not start until some time in February 1778, and reached Boonesborough Kentucky and March of that year, our expedition was commanded by James Trabue; when we reached Boonesborough, we there learned that some of James Trabue's men, who had preceded us, had reached Boonesborough before us, and had gone with Daniel Boone to the licks to make salt, and had been taken prisoners, after remaining some time, and refreshing ourselves, we marched to Logan's Fort, where we found some more of our men, and there we determined to remain and await the arrival of Col. Clark who was to descend the Ohio to the Falls in boats; having Clark's orders to wait there until he reached the Falls, and would send us word to meet him there, we remained some time there and express came from Col. Clark informing us of his arrival, and directing James Trabue and the other officers, with their men, to repair to the Falls of Ohio and joined him. James Trabue and the other officers accordingly marched their men down to the Falls, and joined Clark there; and we there built a Fort: About this time a Mr. Lindsay who was the chief or general commissary in the West, was sent to New Orleans to obtain the stores for Government, and James Trabue was appointed by Col. Clark commissary in his room; not only to superintend the supplies for the several forts in Kentucky, but took command of the Government stores at the Falls, and supplied Clark's troops, having the chief command, or being commissary General; with four assistant commissary's under his command: had the charge of the Magazine at the Falls of the Ohio, and superintended the employment of hunters to kill meat, and everything relating to the supply of the troops, over which Clark had the command, how this appointment was made, whether by Clark or the officers

under his command only, or whether it was approved by the Gov. and other parties of Virginia, he does not know; but knows that James Trabue and his assistant commissary's (for the witness was one of his assistants), had power to press horses, and everything necessary for the use of Clark's Army and the forts in Kentucky, witness knows that James Trabue kept the books, in which all that was transacted in the Western service, East of the Falls of the Ohio, was recorded, and that to James Trabue, the witness who was commissary at Logan's Fort, and Jacob Pyatt commissary at the Falls of Ohio, ___ Bunton commissary at Harrods Station, and ___ commissary at Boonesborough, head to render their accounts, and witness knows that James Trabue, after his return from imprisonment by the Indians and British, settled his accounts at Richmond as commissary General aforesaid, with the auditor who attended to that business, this witness was present with James Trabue at Richmond, when the settlement was made, witness thinks this was done in 1782 or 1783, Witness stated during the year 1778, when Col. Clark marched against Kaskaskia, and Vincennes, then called Opost, James Trabue was acting as his commissary, but remained in Kentucky and was very active in engaging hunters to supply provisions, in procuring flour, and other provisions in boats down the Ohio, and in forwarding to Col. Clark and his troops supplies of everything necessary for the expedition, this witness knows from his acquaintance with the business of James Trabue, and from superintending a settlement of Pyatt the assistant commissary at the Falls of the Ohio, with his brother for amounts received from James Trabue the commissary General, and issued by Pyatt. Witness states that he and his brother James were engaged at first to go on this expedition, and by every means promoted its success, as far as in their power, and would have gone on the Campaign, but Col. Clark gave them orders to remain for the purpose of supplying the forts in his absence, and to provide supplies and forward them if required to the Army, and provisions for the troops, on their being disbanded, and on their return, which they did faithfully with every expectation of being considered attached to the Regiment of Col. Clark, which has since been called the Illinois Regiment, and that performed so many and important services to the West, and it was by their active exertions that the expedition was able to march at all, and in the performance of his duties James Trabue had to encounter as much danger and peril as those who marched on the expedition, for the Indians were extremely troublesome, in their incursions through Kentucky. Witness and James Trabue marched more than half way, in the expedition, through the wilderness, attended by danger at every step almost until they reached the Falls of Ohio, and would have continued with the expedition, had not Col. Clark thought that they could more effectually aid the success of the expedition by procuring and forwarding the supplies, as heretofore stated, witness states that upon the return of Col. Clark, James Trabue and his assistants, were engaged in supplying the rations for the disbanded soldiers who were marched to the East on their return home, and in supplying the forts and stations with provisions and munitions of war; In the year 1779 James Trabue sent the witness to Virginia for a supply of powder and lead and witness in conjunction with Col. Callaway brought out 40 horse loads of powder and lead, the powder was procured at or near Richmond and the lead at Chisils Mines [Chiswell Lead Mines], and brought to the forts in Kentucky for issue; Witness states that prior to this time, a good deal of powder had been forwarded to Kentucky, by water or packhorse, and had been spoiled and James Trabue employed man to make it over again, or renew it, which was done, and a seasonable supply in that way he obtained, Witness states that he performed a variety of active duties in the Department until about the ___ day of ___ in the year 1780 when the Indians and British attacked Ruddles Station, and in which James Trabue was at the time, and was taken prisoner, and as witness has heard him say, and has otherwise understood the Indians took him to

Detroit, and delivered him to the British, who took him to Montréal and placed him under guard, from which place he made his escape in the latter part of the year, and passing by New York and Richmond, came to Kentucky, during the winter of 1780 or 1781, but as witness has on to Virginia on some business, and did not return to Kentucky until after the taking of Cornwallis, and cannot tell what duties he performed, after his return from imprisonment, only, he saw him settling his accounts with the Auditor as stated heretofore in Richmond, in the year 1781 or 1782. He states that he has understood had James Trabue died in the latter part of the year 1802 in Charlotte County Virginia and left several children; witness further states that James Trabue, when freed from imprisonment, hastened back to his post, telling witness that he was going back to perform the duties of his office, and if the service needed the witness, he would send for him word to come on to Kentucky, Witness states that he has understood and believes, that James Trabue, continued in the same service, and ready to perform all the duties of his office, and did not re-sign, but continued in the service until the close of the War, ready to meet any requisition made on him, of his continuance in the service, witness has no doubt, until the close of the war. The Indians & British took James Trabue's papers while a prisoner and it is believed kept his commission.

Sworn to and subscribed in my presence this 29th day of October 1833

M. P. Wheat, JP

S/ Daniel Trabue

State of Kentucky Lincoln County Sct

Personally appeared before me Henry Week one of the Justices of the peace for said County Capt. Benjamin Briggs¹ resident in the County and State aforesaid aged 68 years and made oath that he was acquainted with James Trabue and Daniel Trabue and they came to Logan's Fort in 1778 now in Lincoln County Kentucky in the beginning of the spring of that year & they belonged to Col. George R. Clark's Regiment and Capt. Richard May was their Capt. they all remained with many others at the said Logan's Fort until Col. G R Clark came down the Ohio with men provisions etc. and then Clark's man which were at Mobley's Fort all went to the Falls of Ohio to rendezvous with Col. G R Clark's Army James Trabue was then appointed commissary general at the Garrison at the Falls of Ohio Harrodsburg, Logan's Fort and Boonesborough and Daniel Trabue was then appointed deputy commissary under said James Trabue in furnishing the Army with horses provision ammunition and issuing it out also employing hunters to provide meet for said Army in which employee they continued much engaged until the last of the year 1779 when some of the garrisons not having need of the soldiers discharged them some in about June 1780 James Trabue was taken prisoner by the British & Indians at Isaac Ruddles Fort soon after that perhaps some month Col. G R Clark was preparing for a campaign he then being Col. or General Clark was to be their commander to go to the Indian towns and Daniel Trabue was then again called to act as commissary and did act as commissary and make preparations for said campaign I the said Benjamin Briggs do further state that the said James Trabue and Daniel Trabue began to act as commissaries as has been mentioned in the spring or beginning of the summer 1778. This 22nd of April 1833

S/ B. Briggs

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The Bearer James Trabue of the State of Virginia having been made a prisoner at Kentucky County and made his escape from Canada, has our permission to pass through this State on his

¹ FPA S30889

way home, he behaving has becometh.
Albany 24th Oct. 1780

S/ Saml. Stringer
S/ John M. Beeckman

[Note: Veteran was survived by his wife Jane; when she died is not stated in the file; the veteran and his wife had the following children: Robert, James, Polly who married William Scott, Patsey who married Archibald King, Judy who married George Ewing, and Betsey who married Chastien H. Trabue.]